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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0046

Comment submitted by Gil Grattan, Virginia Turfgrass Council

Submitter Information

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General Comment

Were you aware a small turfgrass lawn provides oxygen for a family of 4 for an entire year. Turfgrass also is beneficial to the enviroment by filtering nutrients, dust, and carbon dioxide. Turfgrass even cools the surrounding areas and reduces the cost to cool houses.

Properly applied nutirents to a turfgrass lawn are used 100% by the grass plants. This study has been done at NC State by Dr. Tom Rufty and various other land grant colleges throughout the United States. In fact in golf course situations, the turfgrass filters the nutrients so much so that the water entering the golf course is cleaner than when it entered the property.

I am a small business owner with 23 total employees. Current regulations such as mandatory reporting, black out dates and other regulations unfairly effect our industry

and since we don't receive any state or federal funding, make it difficult for us to run our businesses with substantial increases in costs.

Our industry supports proper application of nutrients, sound agronomic practices with science based decisions and is looking forward to working to solve the problems in the Bay. However, we need assistance and a voice at the table to help both the State of Virginia and the EPA clean up the Bay.